

## News Release

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# Missouri Metro, Micropolitan Area Labor Market Conditions Dip in January

Over-the-year Employment Growth Strong, Unemployment Rates Drop

**JEFFERSON CITY** \_Unemployment rates in January were lower than in January 2005 in virtually every area, but were up seasonally compared to December in most areas. Winter increases resulting from decreased outdoor activities, the end of the holiday retail season, and the low-point of the annual tourism cycle were noted in most areas, but unusually mild weather generally kept unemployment rates from rising as much as in a typical January.

Payroll employment decreased seasonally in Missouri's seven metropolitan areas in January, but unusually mild weather limited the employment cuts. However, January employment levels were at least 1.2 percent higher than a year ago in all areas.

Between December and January, employment in the St. Louis MSA decreased by 27,900 jobs. Most industry changes were seasonal. Natural resources and construction employment was down by 2,800 jobs, retail trade by 9,400, leisure and hospitality by 4,000, and local government (which includes public schools) by 2,200. Motor vehicles manufacturing employment was down by 1,800, mostly the result of a temporary auto plant layoff.

Kansas City MSA employment was down by 17,400 jobs in January. Natural resources and construction employment was down by 1,000, retail trade by 5,700, leisure and hospitality by 3,000, educational and health services by 1,700, and local government by 2,100.

In Springfield, January employment was 3,700 jobs lower than in December. Retail trade employment was down by 1,600. Columbia employment was down by 4,400 over the month; state government employment accounted for 2,800 of the decrease. Employment in Jefferson City was off by 500, with 500 fewer jobs in retail trade. In Joplin, the decrease was 1,400 jobs, including 600 in retail trade. The decrease in St. Joseph was 800, 300 in government and 500 in the private sector.

Over the past year, employment growth has been healthy in all the metropolitan areas. Growth rates ranged from 1.2 percent in Jefferson City to 3.6 percent in Springfield.

Non-farm payrolls in the Kansas City MSA added 17,000 jobs over the year, for a 1.8 percent growth rate. Good weather plus a building boom caused natural resources and construction employment

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to increase by 6,900 jobs or 15 percent over the year. Professional and business services employment grew by 7,000, while leisure and hospitality added 3,000. Health care and social assistance employment was up by 2,200, while financial activities added 1,500 jobs. The main exceptions to the upward trend were in manufacturing (-1,800), telecommunications (-1,700), and federal government (-1,000).

St. Louis MSA employment grew by 22,400 jobs (1.7 percent) between January 2005 and January 2006. Private educational and health services added 6,100 jobs, while leisure and hospitality grew by 3,300. Professional and business services employment was up by 5,200. Financial activities employment continued to grow, adding 2,300 jobs over the year, a 3 percent increase. Natural resources and construction employment was also up strongly, growing by 5.9 percent (4,400 jobs). Manufacturing employment was little changed over the year, despite the temporary layoff in the motor vehicles industry. General merchandise stores employment dropped 1,700 jobs over the year.

Columbia employment grew by 3,000 jobs, or 3.5 percent, over the year. The private service-providing industries added 2,700 jobs (5.6 percent growth), while goods-producing employment was up by 400. State government employment was down by 200 jobs.

Jefferson City's growth was 900 jobs. The private service-providing sectors grew at a 2.8 percent rate (adding 1,100 jobs), but state government shed 800 jobs over the year.

In Joplin, employment grew by 3.2 percent (2,400 jobs). About 1,600 jobs were added in the private service-providing sectors, spread through a number of industries. Local government employment was up by 500 jobs.

St. Joseph employment has grown by 3.2 percent over the past year, with a net increase of 1,700 jobs. The increase was in the private sector, with 400 more jobs in the goods-producing industries and 1,300 more in the service-providing sectors.

Turning to unemployment data, metropolitan area unemployment rates in January ranged from 3.4 percent in Columbia to 5.5 in St. Louis.

The highest unemployment rate in the state was in the Branson micropolitan area, as is always the case in January: 16.9 percent. The lowest rate was in Boone County: 3.3 percent. Only Stone, Taney, and Washington Counties had rates of 10 percent or higher.

With relatively low January unemployment and a downward trend over the past year, virtually every area in the state has lower unemployment now than a year ago. In general, these decreases have been substantial. All metropolitan areas had decreases of at least 0.8 points over the year. The drop of 2.1 points in St. Joseph was the largest. Micropolitan areas also had large decreases, ranging from 2.8 points in Branson to 0.3 points in Kennett.

The only county not to experience a decrease in its unemployment rate over the past year was Mercer County, where the rate was the same as in January 2005: 5.5 percent. The largest county decrease was 2.8 percentage points in Stone and Taney Counties.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 2005 data reported in this release have incorporated the usual annual revisions in accordance with Bureau of Labor Statistics requirements.

**MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**  
**FOR METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS AND SINGLE-COUNTY LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs)**  
**CURRENT MONTH (JANUARY 2006), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2005), AND YEAR AGO (JANUARY 2005)**

	JAN 2006	DEC 2005	NOV 2005	JAN 2005		JAN 2006	DEC 2005	NOV 2005	JAN 2005
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U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.1	4.6	4.8	5.7	MEXICO (Audrain Co.)	5.1	4.6	5.2	6.5
MISSOURI	5.2	4.8	5.1	6.4	MOBERLY (Randolph Co.)	5.2	4.5	4.8	6.1
<u>METROPOLITAN AREAS</u>					POPLAR BLUFF (Butler Co.)	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.2
COLUMBIA MSA	3.4	3.0	3.4	4.2	ROLLA (Phelps Co.)	4.3	4.0	4.2	5.0
Boone	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.1	SEDALIA (Pettis Co.)	6.0	5.2	5.3	6.9
Howard	4.7	4.2	3.9	6.1	SIKESTON (Scott Co.)	5.6	5.2	5.7	6.7
JEFFERSON CITY MSA	4.4	4.0	4.1	5.2	WARRENSBURG (Johnson Co.)	4.3	4.1	4.4	5.7
Callaway	4.8	4.4	4.1	5.7	WEST PLAINS (Howell Co.)	4.4	4.3	4.7	5.6
Cole	4.1	3.6	4.0	4.6	QUINCY (MO PT - Lewis Co.)	4.4	4.7	4.3	5.3
Moniteau	5.0	4.4	4.5	6.8	KEOKUK (MO PT - Clark Co.)	5.6	5.3	5.2	7.1
Osage	4.6	4.1	4.3	5.0	<u>SINGLE COUNTY LMAs</u>				
JOPLIN MSA	4.4	3.9	4.5	5.4	Atchison	4.6	4.3	4.5	5.4
Jasper	4.2	3.9	4.5	5.4	Barry	4.9	4.4	4.9	6.0
Newton	4.6	4.1	4.6	5.3	Barton	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.4
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.3	4.9	5.4	6.4	Benton	6.2	5.8	5.8	7.6
KANSAS CITY MSA (MO PT)	5.2	5.2	5.6	6.4	Camden	6.8	6.0	5.4	8.4
Bates	6.4	6.2	5.8	8.6	Carroll	5.0	4.4	4.9	6.9
Caldwell	5.2	4.9	5.5	7.6	Carter	6.7	6.6	6.3	8.9
Cass	4.6	4.7	4.7	5.8	Cedar	5.3	5.2	5.7	6.7
Clay	4.1	4.1	4.5	4.9	Chariton	5.1	5.1	5.6	6.6
Clinton	4.9	4.8	4.8	6.8	Cooper	4.5	4.1	4.4	6.8
Jackson	5.8	5.8	6.4	7.0	Crawford	6.8	6.1	6.1	8.1
Lafayette	5.3	5.1	5.0	6.8	Dade	5.6	4.7	5.7	5.9
Platte	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.8	Daviess	4.7	4.6	4.6	6.3
Ray	4.6	4.5	4.8	6.9	Dent	6.5	6.2	6.6	7.5
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.1	5.0	5.3	7.2	Douglas	5.5	5.2	5.5	6.6
ST. JOSEPH MSA (MO PT)	5.0	5.0	5.2	7.1	Gasconade	6.5	5.5	5.3	7.7
Andrew	4.7	4.8	4.3	7.0	Gentry	4.5	4.5	4.7	5.0
Buchanan	5.0	5.0	5.4	7.2	Grundy	5.2	5.1	5.1	6.1
DeKalb	5.7	5.5	5.0	6.8	Harrison	5.7	5.4	4.9	7.4
ST. LOUIS MSA	5.5	4.9	5.2	6.5	Henry	5.8	5.8	5.7	7.6
ST. LOUIS MSA (MO PT)	5.2	4.8	5.2	6.4	Hickory	7.2	6.7	7.1	9.5
Franklin	6.4	5.4	5.1	8.0	Holt	4.4	4.6	4.3	6.2
Jefferson	5.6	4.8	4.8	7.1	Iron	7.5	7.2	6.9	9.1
Lincoln	5.9	4.8	4.3	7.1	Knox	4.0	3.4	3.5	5.2
St. Charles	4.0	3.5	3.7	4.7	Lawrence	4.3	3.9	4.4	5.5
St. Louis Co.	4.8	4.4	4.9	5.8	Linn	7.7	7.7	8.7	9.0
Warren	6.1	4.7	4.8	6.4	Livingston	4.7	4.6	4.7	6.5
Washington	10.3	9.7	8.0	11.5	Macon	5.3	4.8	4.4	6.5
St. Louis City	7.0	7.0	7.8	8.8	Madison	6.0	5.7	6.0	7.4
SPRINGFIELD MSA	4.0	3.6	4.1	4.8	Maries	4.6	4.1	4.4	6.1
Christian	4.3	3.4	3.6	5.1	Mercer	5.5	4.8	4.2	5.5
Dallas	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.3	Miller	7.5	6.7	5.8	9.4
Greene	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.6	Mississippi	6.9	6.6	6.8	8.3
Polk	4.3	4.0	4.4	5.1	Monroe	6.3	5.6	5.2	7.1
Webster	3.9	3.7	4.2	5.1	Montgomery	6.0	5.2	5.3	6.9
FAYETTEVILLE MSA (MO PT - McDonald Co)	3.6	3.1	3.5	4.4	Morgan	7.9	6.9	6.0	9.0
<u>MICROPOLITAN AREAS</u>					New Madrid	7.5	7.4	7.1	8.6
BRANSON	16.9	8.0	5.6	19.7	Oregon	5.0	4.6	5.2	6.0
Stone	14.9	7.7	6.2	17.7	Ozark	6.3	6.0	5.7	7.4
Taney	18.1	8.2	5.2	20.9	Pemiscot	8.0	7.9	8.1	9.3
CAPE GIRARDEAU	5.0	4.5	4.7	5.7	Perry	3.7	3.5	3.9	4.9
CAPE GIRARDEAU (MO PT)	4.6	4.3	4.5	5.3	Pike	5.7	5.1	4.8	7.0
Bollinger	6.2	6.0	5.8	7.9	Putnam	5.0	4.6	5.0	5.3
Cape Girardeau	4.4	4.0	4.3	4.9	Reynolds	8.0	7.8	7.6	10.0
FARMINGTON (St. Francois Co.)	6.9	6.1	6.3	8.3	Ripley	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.7
FT. LEONARD WOOD (Pulaski Co.)	5.0	4.5	5.0	6.3	St. Clair	5.8	5.4	5.4	7.4
HANNIBAL	5.5	5.1	4.9	6.6	Ste. Genevieve	5.4	5.1	5.2	7.3
Marion	5.5	5.0	4.9	6.3	Scotland	4.7	4.0	3.8	5.3
Ralls	5.6	5.2	4.9	7.5	Shannon	8.1	7.5	7.4	10.0
KENNETT (Dunklin Co.)	8.1	7.8	7.4	8.4	Shelby	5.9	5.5	4.6	7.3
KIRKSVILLE	5.0	4.0	4.2	6.1	Stoddard	6.0	5.9	5.5	7.4
Adair	4.8	3.8	3.9	5.6	Sullivan	6.3	6.0	6.0	7.2
Schuyler	6.6	5.6	5.7	8.9	Texas	6.3	5.9	6.2	7.6
LEBANON (Laclede Co.)	5.7	5.2	5.8	7.1	Vernon	4.4	4.2	4.7	5.6
MARSHALL (Saline Co.)	5.1	4.9	4.9	6.1	Wayne	7.0	6.3	6.9	8.5
MARYVILLE (Nodaway Co.)	3.4	3.1	3.2	4.4	Worth	4.2	3.8	4.3	5.0
					Wright	5.7	5.4	6.2	7.1

Note: Substate data for 2005 are provisional: not yet official and subject to change.

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN AREAS ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM THE METRO/MICRO AREA TOTALS.  
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